



PHOTOGRAPHY/ TOM SMART

James Mason, a veteran administrator, is charged with directing the country's public-health service.

Utah's ex-health chief still has hands full

By JoAnn Jacobsen-Wells
Deseret News medical writer 2-5-90



WHERE &
WHENCE

WASHINGTON,
D.C. — In 1979 Dr.
James O. Mason, newly
appointed executive
director of the Utah
Department of Health,
faced a state health
program crippled by
overzealous budget
cutting.

The University of
Utah physician had his

hands full.

Eleven years later, he still does. Only
on a much larger scale.

As assistant secretary for health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Mason is now charged with directing the country's public-health service. That includes about 40,000 employees, a budget of almost \$15 billion and the country's seven pre-eminent health agencies.

The national Centers for Disease Control; National Institutes of Health; Food and Drug Administration; Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health Administration; Indian Health Services; Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry; and the Health Resources and Services Administration are under his supervision.

And the challenges they face — smoking, AIDS, drug abuse, innovative re-

search, infant mortality, uninsurable citizens — are his.

Yet Mason, a veteran administrator, has masterfully weathered his first year as assistant secretary — a post that he kiddingly reports "has an average tenure of 20 months."

Except for the whitening of Mason's hair, the 60-year-old Utahn (and father of seven) doesn't look any older than he did 11 years ago. Or hassled.

Nor is he less compassionate toward America's sick and needy.

But the soft-spoken physician-administrator is more deliberate in speaking his mind, regardless of the controversy. As a

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but I disagree with it."

Q. Should travel restrictions be imposed on HIV-infected persons?

A. "I believe there should be free

anything about the disarray, state legislators, county commissioners, mayors are going to have to be willing to put the needed resources into public health. It will pay off."

2 compact cars collide head on in S.L., injuring 2 men, woman

Three people were injured Sunday night in a head-on collision of two compact cars at 1190 S. 300 East.

Police Lt. Tom Brown said a northbound car driven by Viktor Dmitriyev, 34, Salt Lake City, crossed over into the southbound lane of traffic and hit a car driven by Robert L. Roybal, 40, also of Salt

Lake City. The accident occurred at 6:20 p.m.

Dmitriyev, a Russian emigre, was taken to LDS Hospital, where he was listed in serious condition early Monday. Roybal and his daughter, Crystal, 18, a passenger, were treated at Holy Cross Hospital and released. The cause of the accident is under investigation, Brown said.

TEMPERATURES

LOCAL-UTAH

	High	Low	Prec.
Salt Lake City	46	28	
Blanding	39	24	
Cedar City	41	13	
Green River	45	13	
Logan	40	15	
Ogden	42	23	
Orem	42	19	
Price	30	20	
Richfield	44	15	
St. George	56		
Tooele	45	23	
Wendover	39	22	

NATIONAL

	Max	Lo	Pr.	Sky
Albuquerque	44	28		clr
Anchorage	5	-3		clr
Atlanta	69	37	.37	cdy
Boise	40	22	.05	sno
Boston	33	16	.77	cdy
Casper	47	22		clr
Cheyenne	52	23		cdy
Chicago	41	29		cdy
Dallas	60	33		cdy
Denver	58	25		clr
Detroit	31	26		cdy
El Paso	62	40		clr
Honolulu	82	70		r'n
Las Vegas	52	35		cdy
Los Angeles	61	46	.61	cdy
Miami	78	70	.01	clr
New Orleans	63	44		cdy
New York	40	24	.08	cdy
Phoenix	69	46		clr
Portland	48	41	.04	r'n
Reno	39	19		sno
St. Louis	44	30		r'n

School districts already required to levy 23.28 mills. The money that comes from these mills is equitably distributed statewide. In addition, each district has a 10-mill leeway that it can use if voters will go along. The state created an incentive by guaranteeing that each of the first two voters will provide \$20 per student. The state supplements the revenue by that amount if income from the levy falls below that level.

Bangerter's proposal would give local school boards the option of passing a 2-mill leeway without having to ask the question to voters. The

BOARDS

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TIMP

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She said center officials have pressured her son for the past few months to pay for his own medicine and to pay for services he has received in the past few years.

"They can't force him to do that. This is a public service, and they are supposed to take care of him. Last month they really put the pressure on him. I was under the impression he fell under a government-funded program."

No one realizes the damage the Timp scandal caused, she said. The center should have been able to update housing and programs a long time ago.

"All of us parents have spent 10 to 20 years trying to get a diagnosis for our kids. Finally Timp got a program going, and it's terrible this has to happen. It is like somebody pulled the rug out from under our feet."

Barrows' son Dale, 30, has been a client at the center for 13 years.

Eichler said it is the center's responsibility to take care of the patients, whether or not they can pay for services, and he doesn't believe there will be a change.

"The whole rat's nest of the mental-health system is not well-under-

"We find people who fit the profile," Ireland said. "Where they live is not material."

All seven positions on the board of appeals are filled by men. One lives in south Provo.

The Arts Council is also filled by people who have certain specific qualifications, regardless of where they live, land said. Seven of the 15 members of the Arts Council are women; 14 live in north Provo — 12 in the northeast quadrant. One woman on the Arts Council lives in Orem; she works at Brigham Young University.

Geographic representation is important for some boards, however, such as the Planning Commission and Library Board, Jenkins said.

In fact, the Library Board has the most equally distributed representation of any board in the city: the member board is half male, half female; four members live in the southwest sector, one in the southeast, two in the northwest and one in the northeast.

The Planning Commission is equally divided. It has two female

ADAMS